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TO: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Examiner: Brian J. Sines  
Art Unit: 1743

DATE: January 30, 2006FROM: Barry M. Shuman/Wei-Ning Yang

TIME:

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER: 10

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**MESSAGE:**

RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/915,865; Attorney Ref: 2009-174 (81841.0155).

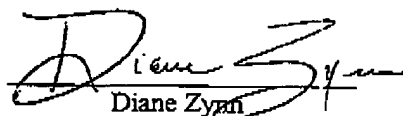
I hereby certify that the following documents:

- Amendment Transmittal Letter/Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.116

are being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, for filing in the above application.

January 30, 2006

Date of Deposit

  
Diane Zynn

TELECOPY/FAX NUMBER: (571) 273-8300 - Art Unit 1743CLIENT NUMBER: 81841.0155ATTORNEY BILLING NUMBER: 6085CONFIRMATION NUMBER: 703-305-0401 (please return fax to Diane Zynn)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Richard R. Sharpe, Jr. et al.

Serial No: 09/915,865

Filed: July 26, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBJECT-  
ORIENTED REAL-TIME MECHANICAL CONTROL OF  
AUTOMATED CHEMISTRY INSTRUMENTS

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Brian J. Sines

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Col. 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Col. 3) PRESENT EXTRA*	LG/SM \$ ENTITY FEE		ADD'L FEE DUE
TOTAL CLAIMS FEE	7	-	26	0	LG=\$50 SM=\$25	\$0	\$ 0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS FEE	1	-	4	0	LG=\$200 SM=\$100	\$0	\$ 0
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS					LARGE ENTITY FEE = \$380 SMALL ENTITY FEE = \$180		\$ 0
ADDITIONAL SIZE FEE (IF ANY) (TOTAL PAGES OF SPEC AND DRAWINGS TOGETHER)					\$250 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL 50 SHEET(s)		\$ 0
Independent Claims: 7					TOTAL		\$ 0

\* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

\*\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box on Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

- ☐ Please charge the fee of \$\_\_ for the additional claim fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Please charge the fee of \$\_\_ for the \_\_ extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

By: Barry M. Shuman  
Wei-Ning Yang (Contact Person)  
Registration No. 38,690  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Barry M. Shuman  
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Date: January 30, 2006

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\\LA-81841\0165-255703 v1

Appl. No. 09/915,865  
Amdt. Dated January 30, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 2009-174 (81841.0155)  
Customer No. 26021

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Richard R. Sharpe, Jr., et al.

Serial No.: 09/915,865

Confirmation No.: 7692

Filed: July 26, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
OBJECT-ORIENTED REAL-TIME  
MECHANICAL CONTROL OF  
AUTOMATED CHEMISTRY  
INSTRUMENTS

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Brian J. Sines

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Date

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

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Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated November 30, 2005, please  
consider the following remarks:

Listing of Claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.